



## **Agenda Item 12**

**National Improvement Framework –  
Standards and Quality Report  
2020 - 2021**

**Falkirk Council**

**Title:** National Improvement Framework – Standards and Quality Report 2020 - 2021  
**Meeting:** Education, Children and Young People Executive  
**Date:** 09 November 2021  
**Submitted By:** Director of Children's Services

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides details of Children's Services Standards and Quality Report. This report is an evaluation summary of the impact of the Education Division Service Recovery and Improvement Plan, approved in September 2020 under the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and seeks approval from the Education, Children and Young People Executive to submit this to Education Scotland.

**2. Recommendations**

**2.1 The Education, Children and Young People Executive is asked to:-**

- (i) note the report;**
- (ii) agree that the Director of Children's Services can submit the Standards and Quality Report to Education Scotland.**
- (iii) request that the Director of Children's Services publish the report on the Falkirk Council website.**

**3. Background**

National Improvement Framework (NIF)

- 3.1 The Framework supports the ambition to achieve excellence and equity for every child in Scotland. The NIF is updated annually.
- 3.2 The NIF is underpinned by a series of planning and reporting duties designed to support transparency and accountability around the efforts of the Scottish Government and Education Authorities to improve educational outcomes. These legal duties, integrated into the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 through Part 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016. This provides Education Authorities with support in:

- interpreting the duties; and
  - identifying the practical steps, they should take in order to meet their new legal responsibilities.
- 3.3 As a Council, we are required to prepare and publish an annual Standards and Quality Report. This is our fifth report prepared under the National Improvement Framework and provides an evaluation summary of progress and improvements in relation to the Children's Services Education Division's Service Recovery and Improvement plan 2020-2021.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 Officers have consulted with schools and central teams in the preparation of this report.

#### **5. Considerations**

- 5.1 The Education Division has undertaken self-evaluation exercises which have helped inform the draft report. This has helped to outline our next steps which feature directly in the Division's Service Recovery and Improvement Plan 2021–2022. The draft report, (Appendix 1), highlights the very good practice achieved by the Education Division, its Early Learning and Childcare Centres, schools and services throughout the very significant disruption of the COVID19 Pandemic. Evidence was drawn from various sources including:
- Attainment data;
  - Standards and Quality reports and establishment improvement plans; and
  - Quality assurance and quality improvement support and consultation with ELCCs, schools and establishments by officers across the year.
- 5.2 This information was used in tandem with our assessment of the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, to support our decision to focus on two key priorities for session 2021-2022 as:
- Continuing to raise attainment and achievement for every child and young person; and
  - Curriculum design and development

This plan is being tabled today for approval.

## **6. Implications**

### **Financial**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Resources**

- 6.2 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

### **Legal**

- 6.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **Risk**

- 6.4 No risk implications have been identified.

### **Equalities**

- 6.5 An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessments will not be required.

### **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 6.6 There are no implications for sustainability or environmental impact arising from this report.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 This Education Division Standards and Quality Report provides an excellent overview of the work of the division during the 2019-2020 academic year.

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### **Director of Children's Services**

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### **Appendix:**

Appendix 1 - Falkirk Council, Children's Services, Standards and  
Quality Report 2020 - 2021

**List of Background Papers:** None